IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method**, executable in a computer,** that restricts access to a script comprising the steps of:

storing an encrypted script **in a web server**;

storing a hypertext object including a reference to the encrypted script **in a modified web page**; and

storing a decryption program capable of decrypting the encrypted script, the hypertext object including a reference to the decryption program,

whereby access to the hypertext object only allows access to the encrypted script.

2. Canceled.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the hypertext object and the encrypted script are stored as a single downloadable object.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the decryption program is stored on a server.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the encrypted script and the decryption program are stored as a single downloadable object.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the hypertext object, the encrypted script, and the decryption program are stored as a single downloadable object.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein storing an encrypted script further comprises the steps of:

selecting an encryption algorithm;

selecting an encryption key; ~~and~~

creating the encrypted script by executing the encryption algorithm and applying the encryption key; **and**

forming a modified web server page including a hypertext object.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the encryption algorithm is a symmetric encryption algorithm.

9. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the encryption algorithm is a public key encryption algorithm.

10. (Currently Amended) A method **, executable in a computer,** that restricts access to a script comprising the steps of:

storing an encrypted script **in a web server** that conceals and restricts access to the script;

storing a hypertext object including a reference to the encrypted script; and

storing a decryption program capable of decrypting the encrypted script, the hypertext object including a reference to the decryption program, **and**

forming a modified web page including the hypertext object for transfer to a web browser;

whereby access to the hypertext object only allows access to the encrypted script.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the hypertext object and the encrypted script are stored on a server.

12. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the hypertext object and the encrypted script are stored as a single downloadable object.

13. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the decryption program is stored on a server.

14. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the encrypted script and the decryption program are stored as a single downloadable object.

15. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the hypertext object, the encrypted script and the decryption program are stored as a single downloadable object.

16. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein storing an encrypted script further comprises the steps of:

selecting an encryption algorithm;

selecting an encryption key; and

transforming the script into the encrypted script by executing the encryption algorithm and applying the encryption key.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the encryption algorithm is a symmetric encryption algorithm.

18. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the encryption algorithm is a public key encryption algorithm.

19. (Currently Amended) A method**, executable in a computer,** that restricts access to a script comprising the steps of:

storing an encrypted script **in a web server** that conceals and restricts access to the script;

storing a hypertext object that modifies a reference to the script to refer to the encrypted script; ~~and~~

storing a decryption program capable of decrypting the encrypted script, the hypertext object, the reference to the script further modified to include a reference to the decryption program[.] **;**

forming a modified web page including the hypertext object;

sending the web page to a web browser; and

sending a request from the web browser to the web server for the decryption program.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein the hypertext object and the encrypted script are stored on a server.

21. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein the hypertext object and the encrypted script are stored as a single downloadable object.

22. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein the decryption program is stored on a server.

23. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein the encrypted script and the decryption program are stored as a single downloadable object.

24. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein the hypertext object, the encrypted script, and the decryption program are stored as a single downloadable object.

25. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein storing an encrypted script further comprises the steps of:

selecting an encryption algorithm;

selecting an encryption key; and

transforming the script into the encrypted script by executing the encryption algorithm and applying the encryption key.

26. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein the encryption algorithm is a symmetric encryption algorithm.

27. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein the encryption algorithm is a public key encryption algorithm.

28. (Currently Amended) A method **, executable in a computer,** that restricts access to a script comprising the steps of:

receiving a **first** request for a hypertext object including a reference to an encrypted script and a reference to a decryption program capable of decrypting the encrypted script;

transferring the hypertext object; ~~and~~

sending the decryption program pursuant to a second request;

receiving a third request for the encrypted script; and

transferring the encrypted script.

29. (Original) The method of claim 28, further comprising the step of:

receiving a request for the encrypted script.

30. (Original) The method of claim 29, wherein the request for the encrypted script is prompted by receipt of the hypertext object.

31. (Original) The method of claim 28, further comprising the step of:

issuing a request for the encrypted script.

32. (Original) The method of claim 31, wherein the request for the encrypted script is prompted by receipt of the hypertext object.

33. (Original) The method of claim 28, further comprising the step of:

transferring the decryption program.

34. (Original) The method of claim 33, further comprising the step of:

receiving a request for the decryption program.

35. (Original) The method of claim 34, wherein the request for the decryption program is prompted by receipt of the hypertext object.

36. (Original) The method of claim 33, further comprising the step of:

issuing a request for the decryption program.

37. (Original) The method of claim 36, wherein the request for the decryption program is prompted by receipt of the hypertext object.

38. (Currently Amended) A method **, executable in a computer,** that restricts access to a script comprising the steps of:

issuing a **first** request **to a web server** for a hypertext object including a reference to an encrypted script and a reference to a decryption program capable of decrypting the encrypted script;

receiving the hypertext object; ~~and~~

issuing a second request to the web serveer for the decryption program;

issuing a third request to the web server for the encrypted script; and

receiving the encrypted script.

39. (Original) The method of claim 38, further comprising the steps of:

decrypting the encrypted script; and

presenting the hypertext object on a display device.

40. (Original) The method of claim 38, further comprising the step of:

issuing a request for the encrypted script.

41. (Original) The method of claim 40, wherein the request for the encrypted script is prompted by receipt of the hypertext object.

42. (Original) The method of claim 38, further comprising the step of:

receiving a request for the encrypted script.

43. (Original) The method of claim 42, wherein the request for the encrypted script is prompted by receipt of the hypertext object.

44. (Original) The method of claim 38, further comprising the steps of:

issuing a request for a decryption program; and

receiving the decryption program.

45. (Original) The method of claim 44, wherein the request for the decryption program is prompted by receipt of the hypertext object.

46. (Original) The method of claim 38, further comprising the steps of:

receiving a request for a decryption program; and

receiving the decryption program.

47. (Original) The method of claim 46, wherein the request for the decryption program is prompted by receipt of the hypertext object.

48. (Currently Amended) A system that restricts access to a script comprising:

an encrypted script **stored in a web server**;

a hypertext object **in a modified web page** including a reference to the encrypted script; and

a decryption program capable of decrypting the encrypted script, the hypertext object including a reference to the decryption program.

49. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 48, further comprising:

an encryption key; and

an encryption program capable of ~~encryption~~ **encrypting** the script by applying the encryption key.

50. (Original) The system of claim 49, wherein the encryption program implements a symmetric encryption algorithm.

51. (Original) The system of claim 49, wherein the encryption program implements a public key encryption algorithm.

52. (Currently Amended) A system that restricts access to a script comprising:

an encrypted script **stored in a web server** that conceals and restricts access to the script;

a hypertext object **in a modified web page** that modifies a reference to the script to refer to the encrypted script; and

a decryption program **singularly requested for transfer to a web browser and** capable of decrypting the encrypted script, the hypertext object including a reference to the decryption program.

53. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 52, further comprising:

an encryption key; and

an encryption program**, executable in the web server, and** capable of encrypting the script by applying the encryption key.

54. (Original) The system of claim 53, wherein the encryption program implements a symmetric encryption algorithm.

55. (Original) The system of claim 53, wherein the encryption program implements a public key encryption algorithm.